

valve body extending into the space between the diaphragms.- -

CANCEL Claims 1 to 3 and add the following new Claims 9 to 18.

NEW CLAIMS:

9. A free draining throttling valve comprising:

- (a) a valve body defining an inlet and an outlet;
- (b) a throttling surface between said inlet and outlet, said throttling surface comprising ^{an} island having a generally annular peripheral surface;
- (c) a diaphragm having a primary surface and a secondary surface, said surfaces being spaced-apart and being joined at peripheral edges to form an internal diaphragm volume chamber;
- (d) said primary surface defining a mating throttling surface engageable with said island;
- (e) drive means on said diaphragm;
- (f) operator means cooperable with said drive means for selectively positioning said diaphragm between an open flow control position in which a throttling gap is established in which a linear pressure drop occurs with increasing flow velocity and a flow blocking position in which the ~~primary~~ diaphragm closes off flow at said island.

2/10. The valve of Claim 9¹ wherein a weep hole extends through said valve body into said diaphragm chamber.

3/11. The valve of Claim 9¹ wherein said island has tapered side walls and said throttling gap is between said side walls and said throttling surface.

4/12. The valve of Claim 9¹ wherein said drive means comprises a threaded shaft on said diaphragm and wherein said operator means comprises a motor driven rotor in threaded engagement with said drive means.

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A 5/13. The valve Claim 9⁴ wherein said rotor is mounted in thrust bearings captured between the rotor and housing.

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6/14. The valve of Claim 9¹ wherein the valve body is a corrosive chemical resistant material.

7/15. The valve of Claim 9¹ wherein said body has an upper and lower section and said diaphragm is retained therebetween at said edge of said diaphragm.

20 8/16. The valve of Claim 12⁴ wherein the motor is a stepper motor. ^{rotor is driven by}

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9. The valve of Claim 9 wherein said rotor is biased to provide a pre-load to oppose fluid pressure.

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10. The valve of Claim 10 wherein said diaphragm surfaces are provided with annular ripples that deform as the diaphragm flexes.

REMARKS

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The objection to the claims has been noted. Claims 1 to 3 have been canceled in favor of new Claims 9 through 18, which are believed now to overcome the various objections including the objections under 35 U.S.C. §112. The new claims are also believed to patentably distinguish over the art of record. Applicants also have submitted herewith a substitute specification. The substitute specification is identical to the previous specification with the exception of the Abstract now being on a separate page and the specification is in double-spaced format.

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A new drawing is submitted herewith marked in red for the Examiner's review and approval. The changes show plastic construction of the valve body and the weep hole as described in the specification.

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Turning now to the claim rejections, the claims have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Linder, et al. Claim 1 is the single independent claim under consideration and now defines the Applicants' throttling valve including the unique diaphragm construction and throttling surface features.